

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An etching method for etching an etching target film formed on ~~a substrate~~ an SiO₂ placed inside an airtight processing chamber by inducing a processing gas into said processing chamber, wherein;

said processing gas contains N₂ and at least one of C₄F₈ and CF₄; and

said etching target film is an ~~upper~~ organic film containing Si formed on an SiO₂ film.

Claim 2 (original): An etching method according to claim 1, wherein:

said organic film containing Si is constituted of SiO₂ containing C and H.

Claim 3 (original): An etching method according to claim 1, wherein:

the dielectric constant of said organic film containing Si is equal to or lower than 3.0.

Claim 4 (original): An etching method according to claim 1, wherein:

said organic film containing Si is an organic polysiloxane film.

Claim 5 (original): An etching method according to claim 1, wherein:

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

said processing gas further contains Ar.

Claims 6-12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (previously presented): An etching method according to claim 1,
wherein;

said processing gas contains at least CF₄ and N₂.

Claim 14 (previously presented): An etching method according to claim 13,
wherein; the flow rate ratio of CF₄ and N₂ in said processing gas is essentially set within
a range of $1 \leq (\text{N}_2 \text{ flow rate} / \text{CF}_4 \text{ flow rate}) \leq 4$.

Claims 15 and 16 (canceled).

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GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

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